

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 is canceled by this amendment. Claims 2-8 and 11-12 are amended.

As a threshold matter, on March 22, 2005 Applicants mailed to the USPTO a supplemental IDS submitting references cited in the search report of the corresponding EPO application. According to PAIR, this supplemental IDS was received by the USPTO on March 25, 2005.

Both mailing the date of mailing, and the date of receipt of the supplemental IDS, are prior to the March 26 mailing date of the latest office action including final rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the references of the supplemental IDS be considered by the Examiner, and that the next communication from the USPTO include a copy of the PTO form PTO/SB/08A&B bearing the initials of the Examiner beside each of the eight references cited therein.

In the latest office action, the Examiner had indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the elements of parent independent claim 1. In an effort to expedite granting of allowed claims, these amendments have been made. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice to filing continuation applications directed thereto, and claims 2-8 and 11-12 have also been amended to depend from claim 2 rather than claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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